(a) whether there is any proposal to construct an airport somewhere near Ludhiana in Punjab to cater the needs of large number of people of Ludhiana, Jalandharand Hoshiarpur districts; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There is a proposal from the State Government of Punjab to construct a Greenfield International Airport at Ladowal near Ludhiana. State Government has been requested to complete the essential requirements for the project including pre-feasibility study and the clearance from the Ministry of Defence.

Refund of Investors Money from NBFCS

†2197. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have succeeded in getting the money refunded to the investors from the non-banking companies which vanished with their money;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and by when the money of investors will be refunded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) to (c) A Coordination and Monitoring Committee, co-chaired by Secretary, Ministry of Company Affairs and Chairman, Securities and Exchange Board of India has been set up to look into various issues relating to vanishing companies and their promoters and for monitoring the progress of action against them. Accordingly, prosecutions have been filed against vanishing companies and their Promoters/Directors under Sections 62/63,68 and 628 of the Companies Act. Besides, First Information Reports have been filed against Directors/ Promoters of 92 vanishing companies for offences punishable under Sections 420, 406, 403, 415, 418 and 424 of the Indian Penal Code.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Petitions have also been filed with the Company Law Board under Sections 397/398/402/408 read with Section 406 of the Companies Act in respect of two selected vanishing companies. It is not feasible to indicate a time frame by which investors may get their money back from the vanishing companies.

Vanishing NBFCS/Registered Companies

2198. SHRI SUDARSHAN AKARAPU:
SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN:

Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of registered companies and those listed on stock exchanges that have vanished leaving investors pauperized, as on 31st December, 2004;

(b) the steps taken to trace the promoters and compensate the investors of the vanished companies;

(c) the number of companies whose promoters have been caught and their assets seized, as on 31st December, 2004;

(d) the number of complaints received from investors of those vanished companies; and

(e) the action initiated/taken for payment of compensation to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) 115 listed companies stand identified as vanishing companies, as on 31st December, 2004.

(b) and (c) 4 Task Forces headed by Regional Directors under the Ministry of Company Affairs have been constituted to take concerted efforts for tracing the vanishing companies and their Promoters/Directors and also for taking necessary action as per law. A Central Coordination and Monitoring Committee, co-chaired by Secretary, Ministry of Company Affairs and Chairman, SEBI has been set up to monitor the progress of action being taken by the Task Forces. Prosecutions have been filed under Sections 62/63,68 and 628 of the Companies Act, 1956 against Directors of 104 vanishing companies. Besides, First Information Reports have been filed under Sections 403,406,415,418 and 420 of the Indian Penal Code